

**POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR VOLUNTEERS-IN-PARKS (VIP)**  
**Natural Resources and Maintenance Assistance**  
**Jean Lafitte National Historical and Preserve/Barataria Preserve**

(08/30/2011)

**Introduction**

The purpose of this Volunteer position is to assist the Maintenance and Natural Resource Management Divisions' staff and other National Park Service (NPS) rangers, on various projects to protect the National Park Natural Resources.

**Tour of Duty**

Volunteers are needed to assist with trail maintenance and wetlands restoration and management projects conducted by the Maintenance and Natural Resource Management Divisions. Tour of duty may be of a one-day or extended period of time up to three years. This tour of duty may be renewed every three years as needed.

**Commitment**

*The Volunteer Service Agreement for Natural Resources Agencies for Individual or Groups* and Position Descriptions must be reviewed, completed and signed before any volunteer service begins. Volunteers, committing to assisting with projects, are expected to follow National Park Service Regulations. Safety training will be provided prior to the commencement of project work. When agreeing to serve with the Volunteers-In-Parks Program, volunteers are expected to be punctual. If unable to work on a particular day, the volunteer (or group leader) will notify Barataria Preserve as soon as possible. The Visitor Center's telephone number is (504) 689-3690.

**Major Duties**

Natural Resource Management and Maintenance projects require physical activity that may include bending, lifting heavy objects, digging, cutting vegetation along trails using small hand-tools such as pruners and loppers, litter and debris cleanup, invasive vegetation control projects and/or raking invasive vegetation from waterways. This may involve using rakes, pushing wheelbarrows, climbing up and down slopes, walking on slippery, uneven and debris-covered surfaces, and traveling by foot and motorized vehicles over roadways, fields, and water (may include watercraft).

**Driving/Operating Vehicles and Equipment**

Driving NPS motorized vehicles and boats by Volunteers, requires specific NPS training and approval by the appropriate NPS authority. If operating NPS vehicles for National Park meetings, programs, errands and operations. Drivers first need to meet safety standards, training, and submit paperwork as required, as well as, receive approval by Park Headquarters prior to driving or operating park vehicles and equipment. If volunteers choose to use any of their own motorized vehicles, watercraft, and/or any personal equipment during a project, it will be at their own risk. The National Park Service will not be held responsible for damage to privately-owned motorized vehicles and/or any personally owned equipment.

**Hazards and Safety**

Project work will be performed mostly out of doors in a sub-tropical climate that may be extremely hot and humid. Environmental hazards include the presence of biting and stinging insects (including fire ants, harvester ants, wasps, bees, deer flies, mosquitoes, and others); spiders (including brown recluse and black widows); alligators and other reptiles (including venomous and non-venomous species); and harmful vegetation (including poison ivy and plants with thorns). Safety precautions (drinking large amounts of water, taking resting breaks, and alerting staff of discomfort) must be followed to avoid dehydration. Also, volunteers must wear safety equipment and clothing as appropriate, such as long-sleeved shirts and long pants, closed shoes or boots, personal flotation devices in and around boats, work gloves, earplugs, safety goggles, and helmets, as well as, other safety items required by the project work supervisor. If uncertain about any part of a particular duty, alert the project supervisor before continuing.

Alert National Park Service (NPS) staff to safety and/or any harassment concerns involving the public, other volunteers, employees, park facilities, or project operations, etc.. Refer issues through appropriate NPS channels when they exceed the volunteer's scope of responsibility or possess the potential for controversy or embarrassment. **The agency volunteer program does not provide compensation, except as otherwise provided by law; and that the service will not confer on the volunteer the status of a Federal employee. I have read the attached description of the work that the volunteer will perform.**

---

Signature of Volunteer (or Parent/Guardian of volunteer under 18 years)

---

Date

---

Printed Name of Volunteer